COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT:	**On-duty hit shooting**
IAB FILE NUMBER:	**SH 2380778**
URN#:	**010-03181-6713-013**
DATE/TIME:	**June 1, 2015, 1744 hours**
LOCATION:	**Orange Line Busway/ Densmore Avenue, Van Nuys**

On June 1, 2015, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) team comprised of Lieutenant Todd Weber, Sergeants Carlos Flores, and Kevin Pearcy, responded to the Command Post located in the area of the Transit Policing Division's North Van Nuys bus depot. Sergeant Kevin Pearcy was assigned the responsibility for the administrative review of the incident.

Lieutenant Todd Weber confirmed the Watch Commander, Lieutenant Albert Maldonado, took reasonable steps to ensure the involved and witness personnel did not discuss the incident among themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators. Lieutenant Weber also ensured Lieutenant Maldonado knew that the involved and witness personnel did not collectively consult with their attorney or representative. In addition, IAB Lieutenant Weber verified Lieutenant Maldonado attempted to have involved and witness personnel gather in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

On September 8, 2015, the case was re-assigned to Sergeant Jorge Marchena.

SYNOPSIS

On June 1, 2015, Transit Policing Division Sergeant Randolph Springer, was working patrol as a field supervisor. At 5:44 PM, Sergeant Springer was operating a marked Chevrolet Tahoe in the city of Van Nuys, traveling east on the Orange Line Busway, approaching Densmore Avenue. Sergeant Springer came to a stop for a red right. Sergeant Springer looked to his left and saw a male White adult and a male Black adult engaged in a conversation next to a gate. The gate was positioned approximately fifteen feet to the north of Sergeant Springer's vehicle.

Sergeant Springer saw the White male (Suspect Jeffrey Morriss) holding a rifle in his hands. Immediately upon seeing the rifle, Sergeant Springer attempted to exit his vehicle as Suspect Morriss pointed the rifle at him. Fearing the suspect was about to shoot him, Sergeant Springer fired one round from his duty weapon, striking the suspect in the abdomen causing the suspect to fall, neutralizing the threat.

Suspect Morriss' rifle, a Crossman Air Gun (Serial #[redacted]) **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME 1, EV-4, PAGE 40]** was recovered by assisting deputy personnel and placed inside a separate patrol vehicle for safekeeping and out of the reach of Suspect Morriss.

Suspect Morriss was treated at the scene by paramedic personnel and subsequently transported to Northridge Hospital where he underwent surgery. He was in stable condition, post- surgery.

No deputy personnel were injured during this incident.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the shooting of Jeffrey Morriss by Sergeant Randolph Springer. In their letter of opinion **[EXHIBIT B]**, dated February 1, 2016, Deputy District Attorney Rosa Alarcon concluded Sergeant Springer acted lawfully in self-defense.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE AND WORK HISTORY

Randolph Springer, Sergeant, #[redacted], MW/ 6' 00", 215 lbs., [redacted]
Transit Policing Division
Transit Bureau- North

Work History

Date of Employment: December 1980- Break in Service 08/91-05/95 Rehired May 31, 1995



Date Assigned to Patrol/[redacted]: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

Equipment Worn On Person

Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm pistol

Magazines (3)

Radio

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray

Expandable Baton

Handcuffs (2) Sets

SUSPECT INFORMATION

Jeffrey Morriss
Male, White, DOB: May 13, 1963, 5' 11", 195 pounds
[redacted]

> **IAB Note: A copy of Suspect Morriss' criminal history is included in the Homicide Case Book [EXHIBIT A, VOLUME I, PAGES 76-89].**

SUSPECT JEFFREY MORRISS' INJURIES

Suspect Morriss sustained a single gunshot wound to his abdomen during the incident. Suspect Morriss' Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center medical records from June 1, 2015, through June 8, 2015 were collected and included with this investigation **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME II]**.

Suspect Morriss' Los Angeles County Jail medical records from June 9, 2015 through September 28, 2015, were collected and included in this investigation **[EXIHIBIT C]**.

DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES

None

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Physical evidence was located and collected by Homicide Detectives Frederick Reynolds #[redacted] and Eduardo Aguirre #[redacted]. They were assisted by Forensic Identification Specialist David Ozeta #[redacted], Mira Amin #[redacted], and Dave Alonso #[redacted] from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Crime Lab. For descriptions of the evidence collected and where it was collected, see Homicide Investigation Book **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME I, PAGES 40-44]**.

A crime scene sketch **[EXHIBIT D]** was created by Forensic Identification Specialist Nancy Clark #[redacted].

INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS

The scene was described in detail by Homicide Detective Frederick Reynolds **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME I, PAGES 40-44]**. The scene was also photographed by the aforementioned Sheriff's Crime Lab personnel. Included in the case is (1) DVD disc containing photographs of deputy personnel, crime scene, and the suspect **[EXHIBIT E]**.

WEAPON USED BY SERGEANT RANDOLPH SPRINGER

Sergeant Springer fired one round of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his Department issued Smith & Wesson M&P, semiautomatic pistol. The firearm was examined and test fired by Firearms Examiner Senior Criminalist Manuel Munoz #[redacted] of the Scientific Services Firearms Identification Section and found to be functional **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME I, pages 143-144]**.

One expended 9mm casing was recovered at the scene **[EXHIBIT A, VOLUME I, EV-1, PAGE 43]**.

Date last qualified prior to the shooting: [redacted]

WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT JEFFREY MORRISS

Suspect Morriss was armed with a "Crosman AirGun", Model 1077, .177 caliber (4.5 MM) pellet rifle.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A bullet hole was located in the driver's door jamb aft of the driver's window to an LASD marked, black and white Chevrolet Tahoe, SH2500.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND CHARGES FILED

The criminal investigation regarding the actions of Suspect Morriss was handled by Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez and Sergeant Robert Martindale from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau.

On June 3, 2015, Suspect Morris was charged with Assaulting a Police Office with a Deadly Weapon, 245(C) PC. Suspect Morriss pled no contest to a charge of 417 (c) PC, Exhibiting a Firearm in the Presence of a Peace Officer, and received a formal probation sentence of 5 years and 258 days in the Los Angeles County Jail.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The shooting took place during daylight hours. The weather was clear.

RADIO TRANSMISSION

IAB investigators reviewed the radio traffic associated with the incident. Following is a brief synopsis of those transmissions:

At 5:44 PM, Unit 688S (Sergeant Springer) broadcasted he had been involved in a shooting. Sergeant Springer advised his location and requested paramedics. Several units acknowledged and responded. All radio transmissions are on a DVD, and included in this case as **[EXHIBIT F]**.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interviews and verbatim transcriptions.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE SERGEANT RANDOLPH SPRINGER

Homicide Interview:

On June 1, 2015, Sergeant Springer was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Robert Martindale and Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez. Attorney Mitchell Kander from Green & Shinee was present. Following is a summary of that interview:

Sergeant Springer was working a one man marked unit (688S) as a field supervisor. He stopped for a red light at Densmore Avenue and the Orange Transit Line. Sergeant Springer's attention was drawn to two individuals to his west. One individual was a male African-American and the second individual was a male White. Sergeant Springer immediately noticed the male White was holding a long rifle with a pistol type grip. The male White was pointing the rifle down to the ground. Sergeant Springer drew his duty weapon and as he attempted to exit it vehicle, the male White pointed the rifle at him.

Sergeant Springer, fearing for his life, fired one round from his duty weapon while still seated in his vehicle. The suspect was struck in the abdomen and fell to the ground. Sergeant Springer broadcasted the shooting using his handheld radio. He requested assistance and paramedics to respond. Sergeant Springer was not hurt during the incident **[REFER TO SERGEANT SPRINGER'S TRANCRIPT, PAGE 8-10].**

IAB NOTE: Sergeant Springer retired from the Sheriff's Department on January 30, 2016 and declined to be interviewed by Internal Affairs investigators for this case.

WITNESS EMPLOYEE DEPUTY SALIM AIMAQ

Homicide Interview:

On June 1, 2015, Deputy (Witness) Salim Aimaq was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Robert Martindale and Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez.

Witness Aimaq was working a one man marked patrol unit (688B) assigned to the East San Fernando Valley area. Witness Aimaq responded to an assistance request he heard over his radio. The request was in regard to Sergeant Springer being involved in a shooting. Witness Aimaq arrived on scene approximately two minutes later. He observed Sergeant Springer detaining an individual (Suspect Morriss) at gun point. The suspect was laying on the ground, moving around, and moaning. Sergeant Springer ordered the suspect several times to stop moving.

Witness Aimaq observed a second male, African-American who was standing near the suspect. Sergeant Springer identified the African-American male as a witness. Witness Aimaq attempted to communicate with the male witness, but he walked away from them as they detained the suspect. Sergeant Springer pointed to a gun on the ground which Witness Aimaq retrieved and placed on the hood of his patrol vehicle.

Witness Aimaq observed the suspect bleeding from his stomach area **[REFER TO WITNESS AIMAQ'S TRANCRIPT]**.

WITNESS EMPLOYEE DEPUTY GABRIEL PEREZ

Homicide Interview:

On June 2, 2015, Deputy (Witness) Gabriel Perez was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Robert Martindale and Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez.

On June 1, 2015, Witness Perez was working a one man marked patrol unit (688A) assigned to the West San Fernando Valley area. Witness Perez heard radio traffic regarding Sergeant Springer involved in a shooting. When Witness Perez arrived on scene, he observed Witness Aimaq and Sergeant Springer detaining a male White adult (Suspect Morriss) at gun point. The suspect was in a seated position crying. Witness Aimaq told Witness Perez to detain the male who was identified as a "Witness". Witness Perez asked the male adult standing on a bike path near the scene if he could wait pending the arrival of additional units.

IAB Note: **The male witness was identified as [redacted]. [redacted] was uncooperative at the scene and was not interviewed by Homicide investigators.**

With the assistance of additional personnel, Witness Perez searched the suspect for any additional weapons. Once the suspect was searched, he was treated on scene by paramedics **[REFER TO WITNESS PEREZ' TRANSCRIPT]**.

WITNESS [redacted]

On June 1, 2015, (Witness) [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Robert Martindale and Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez.

Witness [redacted] was sitting in the living room of his residence, which is located [redacted] the street from the scene, when he heard a gunshot outside. Witness [redacted] went outside his residence and saw two deputies detaining a person laying on the ground at gunpoint. Witness [redacted] made his observation from a distance of approximately [redacted]. Witness [redacted] did not see the shooting or the suspect's weapon **[REFER TO WITNESS [redacted] TRANSCRIPT, PAGES 5-10]**.

WITNESS [redacted]

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators attempted to locate Witness [redacted] at his last residence of record. Witness [redacted] no longer lived at that location and no further addresses could be located.

SUSPECT JEFFREY MORRISS

Homicide Interview:

On June 2, 2015, (Suspect) Jeffrey Morriss was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Sergeant Robert Martindale and Investigator Quilmes Rodriguez. The interview was conducted at Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

Suspect Morriss was standing on the corner of Densmore Avenue and the Transit Orange Line depot. He was holding a pellet rifle in his hand while having a discussion with a male Black adult. He was upset with the male over a drug transaction and for being ripped off by the male in the past. Suspect Morriss had purchased the pellet rifle several weeks earlier to defend himself due to having being previously assaulted.

While having this discussion with the male, Suspect Morriss saw the movement of Sergeant Springer's vehicle and also saw movement in the bushes beyond Sergeant Springer's position. As he turned his body and rifle toward the

movement, his rifle was in the line of sight of Sergeant Springer. Suspect Morriss recognized Sergeant Springer to be a deputy sheriff and believed the deputy knew the difference between a pellet rifle and a real rifle. Suspect Morriss believed he had the rifle pointed over the head of Sergeant Springer.

Suspect Morriss heard Sergeant Springer give him commands to put the gun down and put his hands up. Within a few seconds of being given the commands, Suspect Morriss was shot once and fell to the ground **[REFER TO SUSPECT MORRISS' TRANSCRIPT, PAGES 16-18, 23-26]**.